

Bowling alley gets facelift with new paint, upgrades

By Kathryn Gurfinkel
The Goodland Star-News

The Bowladium Lanes bowling alley and restaurant is getting a new image, with a fresh coat of paint on the outside and upgrades inside.

Lori Amthor, who owns the business with her husband Jerry, said the red, blue and yellow paint for the outside of the building was chosen to match the inside.

She said for now, they are just painting the trim and sides of the building.

Workers removed outside decorations and Amthor said they will add a new sign painted with a bowling ball and pins.

Work on the interior will start at the end of August by adding more room to the dining area. Amthor said they plan to knock out the north wall and relocate their office to extend the room. A new office will be built up front.

Now, when the restaurant is full, she said, people are forced to take their meals into the bowling area to find a place to sit.

“We’ll have a bigger dining space to accommodate more people,” she said. “It’s nice for meetings to have more room.”

She said they plan to rearrange the benches and chairs in the sections between the bowling lanes.

The upgrades will continue this winter, around the holidays, when, Amthor said, they plan to install new ball returns and automatic telescopes, electronic scoring machines. She said with leagues starting in the fall, they want to wait until they can break for the setup.

Bowladium is getting the machines from another bowling alley undergoing an upgrade. Amthor said her husband went to a special



Jerry Amthor, owner of the Bowladium Lanes bowling alley and restaurant, touched up some of the bright red trim on the outside of the bowling alley Tuesday. Amthor and his wife and co-owner, Lori, are excited about the changes they have planed for the outside and the inside of the building. He said Loraine Albers deserves credit for the painting project.

Photo by Kathryn Gurfinkel/The Goodland Star-News

all-day school to learn how to maintain the new equipment.

Along with the physical upgrades, the bowling alley continues to add items to the menu.

Rocky Mountain oysters, ham salad sandwiches, chicken fried steak and chicken fried chicken with potatoes and gravy are some of

the new additions.

“We just keep adding to our menu,” she said.

Amthor said she is excited about all of the changes, especially the new mechanical equipment inside.

“It’s just been something we wanted to do for a long time,” she said.

Unconstitutional warrant forces judge to dismiss drug case

Drug charges against a Goodland woman were thrown out of court last week after a judge ruled that a search warrant used in the case was unconstitutional.

Jennifer Rose Wagoner, 23, was arrested in November after police said they found an active methamphetamine lab on her property.

The search warrant, issued on Nov. 11, was deemed unconstitutional by Judge Jack Burr, who said that it lacked the information required by the case law and gave no indication of the reliability of a confidential informant.

The evidence from the search was set aside in court on Aug. 16 because, after the judge ruled that the warrant violated the 4th Amendment to the US constitution.

Sherman County Sheriff Doug Whitson said in November that the search resulted in the discovery of a good-sized active clandestine methamphetamine lab in a shed in the back yard at 104 Arcade Ave.

The search also resulted in the recovery of property valued at

\$800 which had been taken in a recent burglary in the area.

Wagoner was charged with one count of burglary, building used as a dwelling, and a second charge of manufacturing a controlled substance, possession of ephedrine or a derivative as a precursor to an illegal substance, possession of paraphernalia to grow or distribute marijuana, and drug possession.

The cases against Wagoner were dismissed without prejudice on Aug. 18, just two days after the search warrant was labeled unconstitutional.

Kansas college students at risk for bacterial meningitis

State officials are encouraging college students to consider getting vaccinated for bacterial meningitis as they return to class this fall.

Gov. Kathleen Sebelius has asked Kansas colleges to educate their students about the transmission, symptoms and risks of the disease, along with information about vaccination.

“Starting college is a busy time for students, but we encourage them to take a few minutes to educate themselves about meningitis and the vaccine available,” said Sebelius. “It’s a decision that can protect them from a potentially deadly illness.”

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control, the American Academy for Pediatrics and the American College Health Association recommend that students, especially incoming freshmen who will live in dormitories, be aware there is a safe and effective vaccine available.

Dr. Robert McCullough, a Goodland family practitioner, said although the disease is not common, people need to be aware of its symptoms and risks. He said those most at risk are those who live in close proximity with others, such as military barracks or college dormitories.

Dr. McCullough said the military started to vaccinate new recruits in the early 1970s as part of their initial series of inoculations. He recommends that all college students be vaccinated, especially those who will live in dormitories.

He said the cost of vaccination is small compared to the health costs involved in treating bacterial meningitis.

Transmission of the disease usually is through direct contact with the respiratory secretions from an infected person, for example: sharing a drinking container or eating utensils, and kissing.

Symptoms, which can appear within several hours or up to two days after infection, include high fever, headache and a stiff neck, plus nausea, sleepiness, confusion or discomfort when looking at bright lights.

The disease requires immediate medical care, so early diagnosis and treatment is essential. From 10 to 15 percent of the victims die, and the disease also can cause loss of hearing or limbs.

The vaccination is available through the Goodland Family Health Center. Call (785) 890-6075.

Local group buys abandoned truck stop property

By Kathryn Gurfinkel
The Goodland Star-News

The old New Trail Truck Stop in Goodland may see brighter days since the property has been purchased by a local group, but the new owners say they’re not sure what they will do with the operation.

The group, Prairie Sky Capital

LLC, with members Dough Irvin, a Goodland farmer, and his brother, Michael Irvin of Manhattan, bought the truck stop and motel last month, but have announced no plans.

“At this point,” said Doug Irvin, “we don’t even have an angle on it.”

The New Trail Truck Stop and Apple Trail Restaurant property, off

of K-27 just south of Interstate 70, has been empty for more than three years.

The property was owned by New Wave Corp. out of California when it went bankrupt and closed in July 2001.

It was later purchased at auction for \$987,000 by the mortgage

holder, FMAC Loan Receivables, in March 2003. Prairie Sky bought the property last month from BPC 1998-A KS LLC, of Georgia.

When it was open, the truck stop boasted a 24-hour restaurant, a parking lot big enough for semi-trailer rigs and a staff of 38 people.

Irvin said other than some mow-

ing and clean-up, they haven’t done much with the property so far. He said they plan to get the building and the gas pumps looked at, but they aren’t sure if they will use them. Progress is being made through phone calls, but he said there are no definite plans yet.

“It’s too early right now,” he said.

“We just don’t know. We’re taking it one step at a time.”

Irvin said he knows people are talking about Prairie Sky’s intentions.

“Anything you’re hearing now,” he said, “is just absolutely rumors because we don’t know what we’re going to do with it yet.”

Chamber reports progress at economic development meeting

Goodland Chamber of Commerce leaders came to a Sherman County Economic Development Council meeting last Tuesday with a report on their projects.

Executive Director Courtney Warden said the Chamber had signed on for the downtown “welcome” flag project.

The board talked about the proposal for welcome signs for Main

back in March, she said, and had tabled it at that time.

“We are on board with it,” she said, “and the plan is to have the Chamber pay one third of the cost.”

She added that the total cost of the project has gone down to \$1,300 rather than the \$1,800 first estimated by Dave Branda.

“He found out we could save some money on the poles, and with

the number being purchased, to drop the price,” she said.

“Our board has not officially approved it yet, but we will be e-mailing them this week to get the flags ordered to be here for Flatlander Fall Festival in September.”

She said the plan is to use the existing brackets on the light poles along Main, and possibly move them up a few feet next year to make

it harder to steal the flags.

“We work very well together (Chamber and Economic Development),” Warden said, “and I feel the Chamber is moving in a positive direction.”

She said the planning for the annual Flatlander Fall Festival is moving along, and it should be another big show.

“We are planning a golf tournament on Sept. 18 to help raise money,” she said. “This will start at 4

p.m. in the afternoon, and after dinner the second round will be played in the dark with lighted balls and there will be several ‘adventure’ holes.”

“We want the events sponsored by the Chamber to pay for themselves,” said Donna Swager, Chamber board chairman. “We need 30 teams to make this bring in the money.”

“We want to be in a position to not have to ask people for money.”

“The Chamber is a membership-only group, and yet we want to continue to present the events to bring people to town.”

Dave Daniels, council vice-chairman, asked if the cost of the welcome flags included any replacements. Warden said she did not think so.

Daniels suggested the council leave the \$600 approved for the flag project at that level to allow for some replacement flags or brackets.

The council agreed to leave the council’s contribution at \$600.

Goodland woman new postmaster

Penny S. Sheldon of Goodland has been appointed postmaster at St. Francis, effective Aug. 7

Mark A. Kerschen, manager of Post Office Operations for the U.S. Postal Service in Hutchinson, came to administer the oath of office Friday at the St. Francis Post Office.

Sheldon succeeds Steve Schultz,

who was promoted to postmaster in Goodland as of May 29. Sheldon has served as officer-in-charge at Winona and Lyons and as a supervisor in the Colby sectional center.

The new postmaster began her career in September 1995 as a part-time flexible carrier in Goodland. She then transferred to a part-time

clerk’s position in Goodland. While working at the Goodland Post Office, she was in charge of the office in 2000 and from April through October, 2002. Sheldon was assigned as officer-in-charge at Lyons in May, where she served prior to becoming the postmaster at St. Francis.

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